

some kind of artistic outlet A home of rich
 regulated
 Victorian ugliness offered little scope to
 this through
 eye or ear, Spencer, aware of this vivid spark,
 dedicated
 it on the altar of his own philosophy, and so,
 indirectly,
 prepared it for social economics But the
 passage through
 Spencensm cost her a great deal and shaped
 her mind
 perhaps a little artificially His "singling her
 out" any-
 how, was a determinant fact in her growth
 Not unnatur-
 ally, as a late comer in a very large family, it
 was for this
 that her ardent young mind was pining

If, in her picture of her girlhood her elder
 sisters, with
 the exception of Margaret, seem rather dim, this
 is explained
 no doubt by the difference in their ages, if
 she herself
 seems rather constantly overshadowed by a
 sense of sin,
 of loneliness, of not being truly at home in the
 world of
 "rootless social relations" whirling round
 her, one has
 to remember that, on all this period, one is, in
 the main,
 reading a diary Any diary exaggerates both
 self-centred-
 ness and the gloom associated with it the
 phenomenon
 she most aptly describes as " being under one's
 own shadow "
 Of hers, the outstanding trait is a tendency to
 argue with
 herself Later, long economic and sociological
 disquisi-
 tions find place in it, at all times, one is in
 contact with
 a woman whose mind is the most important
 part of her
 So far as the years of adolescence go, much of
 the melan-
 choly that broods over her entries must be
 taken as proper
 to the age of the writer, her then unstable
 health, and

the form of self-revelation Here is an eager,
ardent,
highly self-conscious young creature, with a
painfully
active mind, amply stimulated and fed, seen
from within
The other half of the picture, that seen from
without,
largely invisible to its subject, requires to be
added Tall,
slight, with dark, flashing eyes accentuated by
eye-brows
of clear line but short curve, a powerful chin,
an eager
aggressive aquiline nose, and a mass of dark
not too smooth